

**NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 18, 2006

**School Committee in Attendance:** Don Adams, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Cathy Giunta, Brian Burke, Mel Govindan, Ex-Officio Member Donnie Allison, David Horne

**Absent:** Tricia Kelly

**Administration in Attendance:** Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, George King, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Don Adams called the meeting to order at 6:19 P.M. in the Office of the Superintendent.

**REORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE:** New Stow representative to the School Committee, David Horne, was introduced to the committee. The committee took a vote regarding the reorganization of the School Committee which was needed as a result of the recent departure of Stow representative Chris Way and the selection of Mr. Horne as the new Stow representative.

**MOTION**

Ellen Sturgis made a motion that Don Adams be selected as Chair of the School Committee. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Mel Govindan, David Horne **ABSENT:** Tricia Kelly **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION**

Monica Campobasso made a motion that Cathy Giunta be selected as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Mel Govindan, David Horne **ABSENT:** Tricia Kelly **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**APPROVAL OF THE May 4, 2006 MINUTES**

**MOTION**

Ellen Sturgis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2006 as amended. Seconded by Cathy Giunta. **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Mel Govindan, David Horne **ABSENT:** Tricia Kelly **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**APPROVAL OF THE WARRANTS OF May 19, 2006**

<b><u>WARRANT NO.</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
2084	5/19/06	VENDOR	\$ 256,489.81
2085	5/19/06	BENEFIT	\$ 537,605.68
2086	5/19/06	PAYROLL	\$ 1,037,997.06
2087	5/19/06	VENDOR	\$ 100.00

**MOTION**

Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 5/18/06 and subject to retraction of P.O. # 263141. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso.

**MOTION TO AMEND:** Motion to amend the motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to add \$3450 for P.O. #263141 back into warrant # 2084. No second for this motion to amend. Amendment rejected.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** Cathy Giunta made a motion to approve the warrants as detailed in the memos dated 5/18/06 and noted above **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, David Horne **OPPOSED:** Brian Burke, Mel Govindan **ABSENT:** Tricia Kelly **VOTED AND PASSED.**

The committee agreed to take New Business next

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Nashoba Regional High School Improvement Plan**

John Smith, NRHS Principal, presented the Nashoba Regional High School Improvement Plan to the committee. In his presentation Mr. Smith explained the School Improvement Plan, which included the following:

1. Goal 1: NRHS will expand programs and establish expectations for personalizing the learning process.
  - Personal Action Plans
  - Peer Mentoring program
  - Senior Portfolio
  - Develop more student, parent, and faculty surveys to determine current needs
2. Goal 2: NRHS will address areas of concern with the NEASC accreditation and be able to complete or make progress in areas that need improvement.
3. Goal 3: Where practical, instruction and assessment at NRHS will be connected to real-life applications of knowledge and skills (critical thinking and problem solving) to help students link their education to the future.
4. Goal 4: Evaluate course offerings dependent upon student interest and societal trends so that students will have additional course offerings and establish class sizes with a maximum of 24 per class
5. Goal 5: Encourage involvement of students to participate in community service and civic responsibility

The committee thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation.

### **Early Release Use of Time**

The principals of each District school were present to give a brief explanation of the Early Release day (E.R. day) student schedules at their respective school. Pat Perkins, Luther Burbank Middle School Principal, told the committee that Early Release days at the Luther Burbank Middle School involves a mix of the students' regular schedule as well as some special events scheduled for these days. He gave the example of a curriculum related movie which may be shown to students. He told the committee that teachers make the most of the school time on the E.R. Days and that any special event planned for these days is required to be curriculum related.

Principal of Hale Middle School, Margaret Morgan, told the committee that Hale Middle School also has a mix of regular scheduling and other special events planned which are curriculum related. She added that Hale Middle School has a couple of planned "traditional" events which occur on E.R. Days. She said these events include a school-wide football game, a school-wide talent show and the Minuteman Robotics Assembly. She said that students look forward to these events and invited school committee members to attend.

John Smith, NRHS principal spoke next regarding E.R. Days at the high school. He told the committee that the high school has an eight day rotation, and on Early Release days all classes do not meet. For example, this past one, the periods that met were B, C, D, and E. On the next E.R. day (6/2) the periods meeting will be F, G, A, B.

Florence Sawyer School (FSS) Principal, Ken Tucker, addressed the committee next regarding E.R. days at Florence Sawyer School. He told the committee that FSS has a 6 day schedule and that the Early Release schedule is set at the beginning of the school year. He said that E.R. Days are scheduled to run on an odd/even schedule, and that teachers are allowed the flexibility to change the schedule according to the needs of the students.

Assistant Principal Tom Moore of the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School and Principal Greg Irvine of the Pompositticut and Center Schools spoke next. They both shared with the committee their schools' plan regarding E.R. days. They said that E.R. days follow the regular schedule at their respective schools.

A brief discussion ensued regarding whether lunch should be served on Early Release days. Principals were asked what their thoughts were regarding this. Concern was raised that if the schools were to choose not to offer lunch on Early Release days then the younger students who may be going to extended care after school would go a long period of time without lunch. Mr. Wood told the committee that the number of students who order school lunch has not diminished and added that it is the plan moving forward to offer more brunch type items on Early Release days.

Committee member Monica CampoBasso said she has heard complaints regarding the showing of movies on E.R. days and that she could not see a problem with it. She told the committee and those in attendance that she could see the value in these types of activities, especially for middle school students who can learn a lot from these types of socializations, and added that this is very developmentally appropriate. Further discussion took place regarding the Early Release day schedules and Committee member Brian Burke suggested that the schools communicate plans for Early Release days in their schools bulletin.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Town of Stow communication regarding actions taken at Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2006
- Town of Stow Planning Board notice
- Proposed 2006-2007 School Committee Meeting Schedule

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (\*This report is available on the District website)

### **Differentiated Instruction Product Exhibition**

Mr. Wood told the committee about the Differentiated Instruction Product Exhibition set to take place at the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School on May 19, 2006. He said that this event is a professional opportunity for staff to showcase how they have come to engage in differentiated instruction as a way of addressing the complexities of diverse learners.

### **Senate Budget**

Mr. Wood told the committee that the senate has released their budget. He said that although Nashoba's Chapter 70 Aid is increased in this budget, the final numbers will not be known until the two Houses of the legislature conference.

### **Hale Middle School Grant**

Mr. Wood reported to the committee that Hale Middle School was one of 130 schools nationwide awarded a grant from HP Technology. The program, he said, is designed to transform and improve learning in the classroom through innovative uses of technology. He added that Hale Middle School's awards package from HP technologies is \$35,000, which will include five HP Tablet PCs, five HP multimedia projectors, five Hp digital cameras, five HP all-in-one printer/scanner/copiers, software and accessories, a cash stipend for each teacher and a professional development program that includes customized learning opportunities, expert mentoring and participation in a on-line learning community to support teachers' use of technology.

### **Stipend Review and Evaluation Committee**

Mr. Wood reported to the committee that the Stipend Review Committee is working on a negotiated agreement regarding stipends as and may be reporting out their proposals as soon as the next School

Committee meeting. He said that the Evaluation Committee is also meeting regularly and is working toward updating and clarifying the evaluation process and documents used for this.

### **Preschools Impacted by DEP Requirements**

Mr. Wood reported to the committee that Country Munchkins in Bolton will be closing their doors as of June 2, 2006. He said their license will be up at that time and because of new stringent DEP requirements they will not be renewing their license. He said there are several other preschools which may be affected by these requirements next year.

### **FLAAC Strategic Planning Session**

Mr. Wood reported that District administrators would be participating in the strategic planning session for FLLAC on Thursday, May 18th

### **School Tours**

Mr. Wood invited members of the Stow Building Task Force to visit the schools in the District. He extended this invitation to members of the School Committee as he said they may not have had an opportunity to visit schools other than those in their home town.

### **Boston Museum of Science Visit**

Mr. Wood reported that he, along with Ellen Sturgis and Alan Levin, visited with Ionnis Miaoulis, President of the Boston Museum of Science on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. He said this meeting was an opportunity for Mr. Miaoulis to expand on the presentation he made at the October MASC conference and reconnect with Nashoba. Mr. Wood added that NRHS is currently working with the museum in developing their new course for freshman engineering next year.

### **AMSA Update**

Mr. Wood reported that the Department of Education (DOE) ruled on the petition by area school districts that there was not sufficient cause to revoke the charter for AMSA to continue operations. He said that Nashoba participated in this petition. Mr. Wood added that three towns, Hudson, Marlborough, and Maynard, have continued the case to the Massachusetts Superior Court and the Massachusetts Supreme Court with an appeal of DOE's ruling.

### **Appointment of New Attorney**

Mr. Wood told the committee that a new attorney has been appointed to represent the District in the legal proceedings from the financial lawsuit.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Ex-officio Report by Mr. Allison**

Mr. Allison reported to the committee on recent events and activity at the high school.

Athletics- Current team records:

- Baseball: 8-5
- Softball: 10-3
- Boy's Track: 2<sup>nd</sup> in league, about .500
- Girl's Track: 4-1 2<sup>nd</sup> in league
- Boy's Lacross: about .500
- Girl's Lacross: still learning

Other Events-

- Last Jazz Band concert is Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and will feature Zoot Suit Riot.
- NRHS prom was held and regarded as very fun and enjoyable
- Senior Banquet is Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-10 p.m.
- Excellence in Education nominations are currently being solicited
- The Traveling Underwater Circus, a show by Chris Hartford and Chris Flemming, will be Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

**Facilities Subcommittee, by Ms. Kelly**

No report was given.

**Finance Subcommittee, by Ms. Giunta**

Nothing to report.

**Personnel Subcommittee, by Mr. Adams**

Mr. Adams reported to the committee that the Personnel Subcommittee is working on the Superintendent's contract and that the committee will be going into Executive Session to discuss this.

**Policy Subcommittee, by Ms. CampoBasso**

Mr. Wood said that two policies are in the evening's packet for review and the second reading. He said this would be done under "Old Business".

**SPED PAC**

Mr. Burke told the committee that at the May 17th meeting of the Nashoba SPEDPAC, Maria Trozzi, M.Ed., offered strategies and advice for families who are living with a child with disability to about 20 parents in attendance at the Florence Sawyer School. Ms Trozzi is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, a consultant for the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital in Boston, and Director of the nationally renowned Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center. She observed that families with special needs children live with a re-occurring "cycle of grief." Ms. Trozzi provided insights for helping parents and siblings cope with the losses and gains experienced by a family living with a special needs child. At the next meeting, SPEDPAC will make its annual report to the School Committee.

**Stow Building Task Force (SBTF), by Ms. Sturgis**

Ms. Sturgis reported to the committee that the SBTF is meeting weekly and are making progress. She told the committee the SBTF is looking for a Joint Board meeting in late June.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Destination Imagination:**

Representatives of the Destination Imagination Teams were present to speak with the School Committee. Mary Redford addressed the committee and told them that the high school team has decided not to go to the D.I. Worlds Tournament in Tennessee. She said they decided this because it would be during the last week of school with many events planned for that time and they also had difficulty raising the necessary funds. She said that the Stow teams had raised \$24,000 of the \$27,000 they need to fully fund the trip. She asked the committee if they would consider redistributing the funding allotted to the high school team and splitting it evenly among the 4 remaining teams.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Mel Govindan to approve an additional \$1200 for the remaining Destination Imagination Teams. Seconded by Brian Burke **IN FAVOR:** David Horne, Brian Burke, Mel Govindan **OPPOSED:** Don Adams, Cathy Giunta, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis **VOTED AND DEFEATED.**

**Investment of Funds Policy**

The committee conducted a second reading of the Investment of Funds Policy.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to accept the Investment of Funds Policy. Seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, David Horne, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Mel Govindan, Brian Burke, Cathy Giunta **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**Policy on Disposition of Surplus Property**

The committee conducted a second reading of the Policy on Disposition of Surplus Property.

**MOTION**

Motion moved by Ellen Sturgis to accept the Policy on Disposition of Surplus Property. Seconded by Mel Govindan. **IN FAVOR:** Don Adams, David Horne, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Mel Govindan, Brian Burke, Cathy Giunta **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Stow resident Bill Joss inquired about a Boston Globe article regarding the Chapter 70 funding, and asked if there was a new formula for the redistribution of funds. Mr. Wood replied “yes”, but that it was just the Senate’s recommendation. The Senate still needs to approve their budget and the conference committee still needs to be appointed and put together a recommendation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION**

Motion made by Ellen Sturgis to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent’s contract, and to include Mr. Wood and Mr. King. Seconded by Monica CampoBasso. **IN FAVOR:** Cathy Giunta, Don Adams, David Horne, Brian Burke, Monica CampoBasso, Ellen Sturgis, Mel Govindan. **VOTED AND PASSED. UNANIMOUS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee exited Executive Session and adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda DeStasi  
Executive Assistant